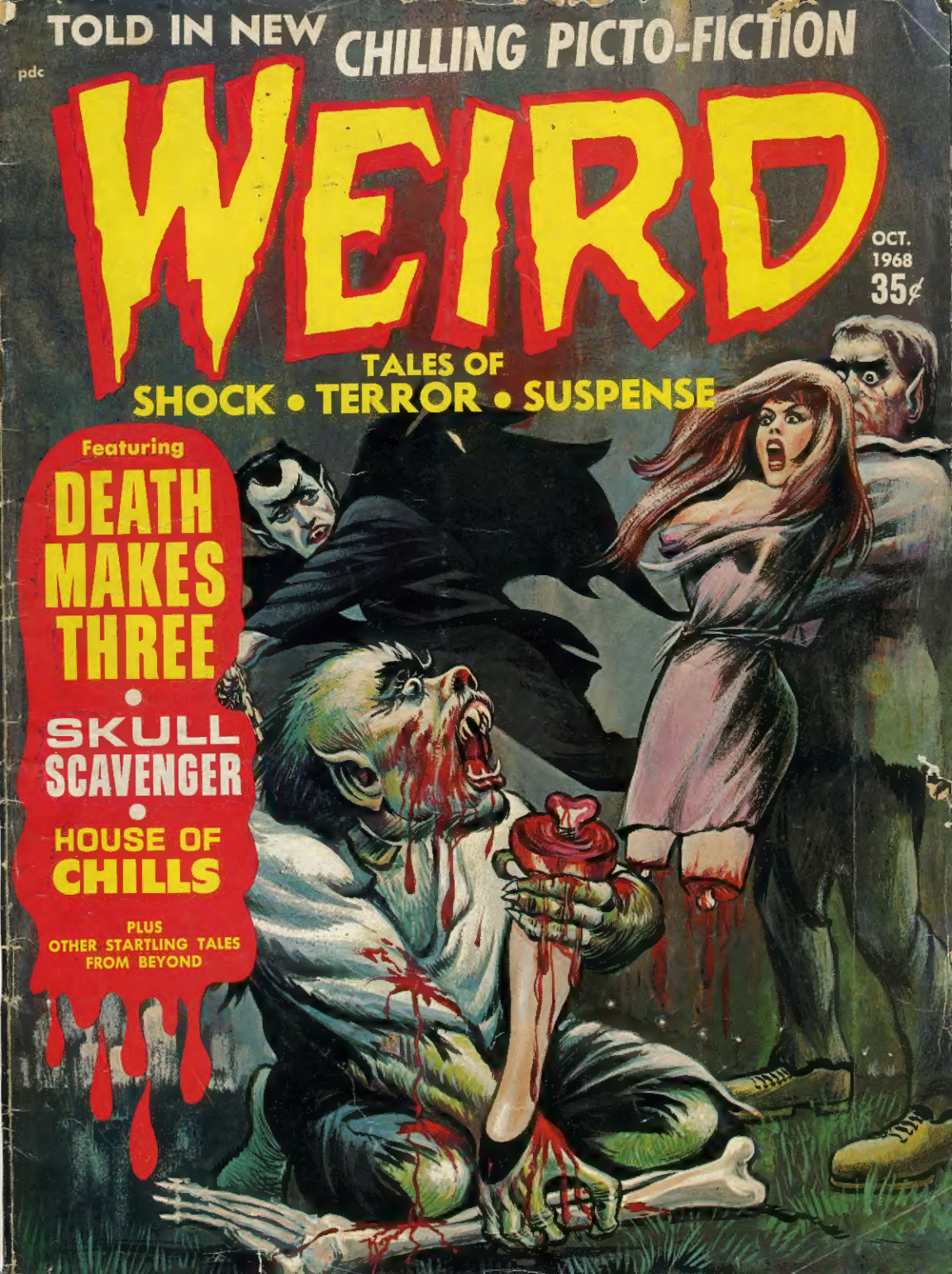
pdc

TOLD IN NEW CHILLING PICTO-FICTION

WEIRD

OCT. 1968 35¢

TALES OF SHOCK • TERROR • SUSPENSE



Featuring

DEATH MAKES THREE

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SKULL SCAVENGER

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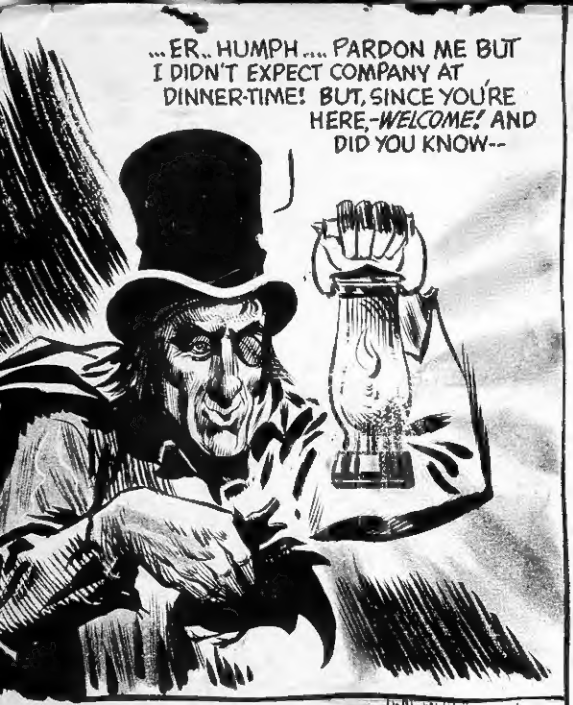
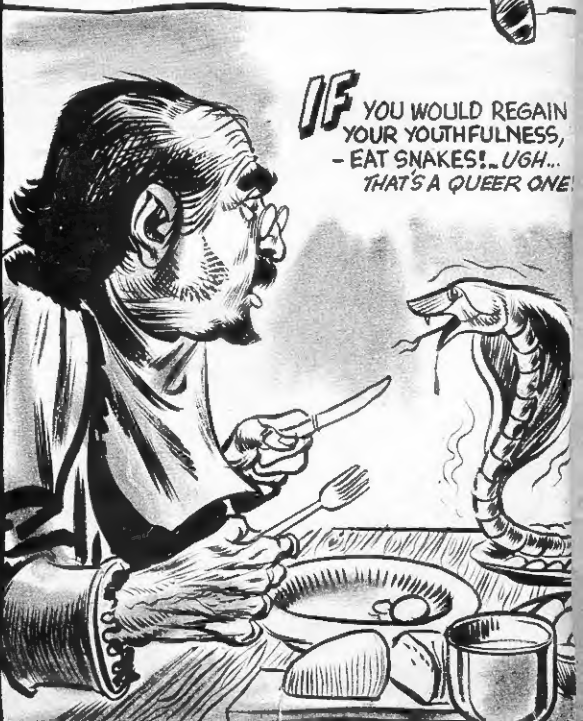
HOUSE OF CHILLS

PLUS OTHER STARTLING TALES FROM BEYOND


...ER.. HUMPH.... PARDON ME BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT COMPANY AT DINNER-TIME! BUT, SINCE YOU'RE HERE,-WELCOME! AND DID YOU KNOW--

--THE LAST CORPSE TO ENTER A CEMETARY MUST GUARD THE OTHER GRAVES!...PSST..THIS CEMETARY WAS ABANDONED IN 1800... HMMN?!

IF THE PALMS OF A BABY ARE WASHED BEFORE HE IS A YEAR OLD, THE CHILD WILL NEVER HAVE MONEY!
...NO WONDER TWO THIRDS OF THE WORLD IS POOR!


IF YOU WOULD REGAIN YOUR YOUTHFULNESS, - EAT SNAKES!..UGH... THAT'S A QUEER ONE!

IF A MAN SWEARS ON A SKULL AND TELLS A LIE HE WILL BE STRUCK DEAD!...THIS MAN SWORE, LIED AND WAS STRUCK DEAD 2 CENTURIES LATER!...THEY CALLED HIM,- COUNT DRACULA!

WEIRD

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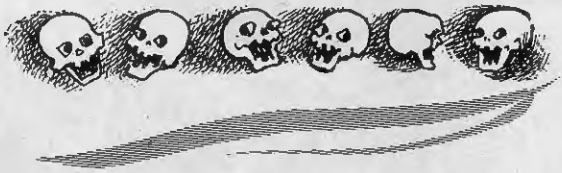

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The WEIRD DEAD

WEIRD GODS, BLOODY AND TERRIBLE, RULED IN ANCIENT MEXICO WHEN THE AZTECS HELD SWAY! AND SOME MEN SAY THAT THE OLD GODS ARE NOT DEAD, BUT STILL ROAM THE NIGHT AND MURDER WHOM THEY CHOOSE! THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS THAT HUMAN SACRIFICE IS NOT A FORGOTTEN THING--BUT ASK MATT BARSTOW, A GREEDY MAN WHO WOULD DARE ANYTHING FOR GOLD! IT WAS HE WHO MET THE **FEATHERED SERPENT...**

IT IS A WARNING! ZABO SPEAKS! HE WARNS THAT ALL WHO ENTER HERE WILL DIE!
ZABO! THE FEATHERED SERPENT!
SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!

ZABO IS A KILLER! I GO! I MUCH AFRAID!
FOOL!
I DON'T KNOW, MATT.! MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T FOOL AROUND WITH THIS THING!

DON'T YOU BE A FOOL, HANK! ACCORDING TO THE OLD LEGENDS THIS ZABO CREATURE ONLY GUARDS THE TEMPLE TREASURE! MAYBE WE'RE GONNA BE RICH AFTER ALL! COME ON AND HELP!
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT!

WHEW! IT'S DARK! AND THAT SMELL-- TERRIBLE!
Y-YES! LIKE SOMETHING --DEAD!

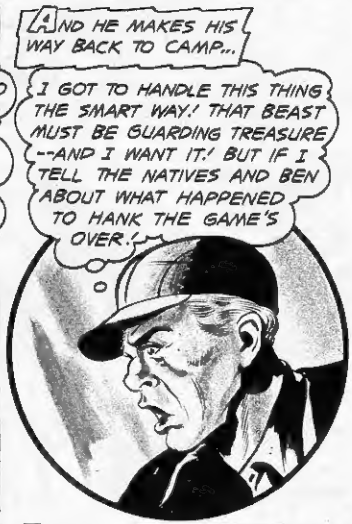
SUDDENLY...
MATT! ANOTHER DOOR! IT'S OPENING!
YOU'RE RIGHT! GET READY FOR --

HISSSSSSS-- RRRRRRR!
RUN! IT'LL KILL US!
ZABO!

IT'S GAINING! HELP!
RUN, FOOL! IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF NOW!

GAAAEEE!

MATT BARSTOW, AS USUAL, IS LUCKY...
OH, WHAT A CLOSE ONE! WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT! BUT I GUESS THAT--THAT THING DOESN'T GO FAR FROM THE TEMPLE! I'M SAFE ENOUGH FOR NOW!


AND HE MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO CAMP...
I GOT TO HANDLE THIS THING THE SMART WAY! THAT BEAST MUST BE GUARDING TREASURE --AND I WANT IT! BUT IF I TELL THE NATIVES AND BEN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HANK THE GAME'S OVER!

SO MATT BARSTOW LIES...
HI, MATT! WHERE'S HANK? YOU DIDN'T LEAVE HIM AT THE TEMPLE?
YES! HE--ER--WANTED TO STUDY SOME OLD AZTEC WRITING HE FOUND! HE'LL BE ALONG SOON!

AND THAT NIGHT...
I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST NOW! BEN IS ALREADY SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE HANK HASN'T RETURNED! BUT I'M NOT SHARING THAT TREASURE WITH ANYBODY-- IF I CAN GET AT IT!

ZABO! HERE IT IS! SAYS THE OLD AZTECS OFTEN OFFERED HUMAN SACRIFICES TO APPEASE HIM-- HUH! THAT YOU, BEN ?
YEAH! I WANTA TALK TO YOU!

I WANTA KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HANK! YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING, MATT! I THINK YOU FOUND SOMETHING THIS AFTERNOON, MAYBE TREASURE, AND KILLED HANK!
YOU'RE WRONG, BEN! ALL WRONG! I TELL YOU...

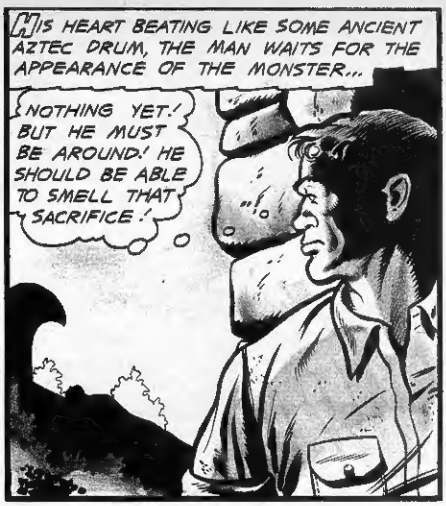
AND NOW I FIND YOU READING UP ON AZTEC HUMAN SACRIFICES! YOU'RE LYING, MATT! YOU'VE KILLED HANK AND YOU'RE TRYING TO COVER IT UP!

OKAY, I FOUND A TREASURE! BUT I AIN'T SHARING IT! NOT WITH YOU!
AGGGG!

LATER AS THE MOON SINKS LOW...
BEN GAVE ME AN IDEA AT THAT! I KNOW THAT ZABO IS ALIVE IN THAT TEMPLE--NOW I'LL SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS HUMAN SACRIFICE STUFF! MIGHT BE A WAY TO GET AT THE TREASURE!

C-CREEPY! I WOULDN'T DO THIS FOR ANYTHING BUT A FORTUNE! BUT NO FEATHERED SERPENT IS GOING TO KEEP MATT BARSTOW AWAY FROM TREASURE

THERE'S YOUR SACRIFICE, ZABO! ALL READY! NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE TREASURE UNGUARDED!


HIS HEART BEATING LIKE SOME ANCIENT AZTEC DRUM, THE MAN WAITS FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THE MONSTER...
NOTHING YET! BUT HE MUST BE AROUND! HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SMELL THAT SACRIFICE!

AND SUDDENLY...
ZABO! WHAT A BRUTE! HE'S GOING AFTER THE BODY!

CRUNCH!

COLD SWEAT ALL OVER ME! BUT IT WORKS! I KNOW HOW I CAN GET TO THE TREASURE NOW! ONLY THING IS--I NEED MORE HUMAN SACRIFICES!

I GUESS SOME OF THE NATIVES HAVE GOT TO GO! MAYBE ALL OF THEM! I GOT TO KEEP ZABO BUSY LONG ENOUGH TO GET INTO THAT ROOM, SCOOP UP THE TREASURE, AND GET OUT!

AND THAT VERY NIGHT HE GETS MORE INSPIRATION...
HMM— THEY'VE GOT THE IDEA!
GRAB HER, SHE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO ZABO!
N-NO! PLEASE LET ME GO!

P-PLEASE! I DO NOT WANT TO DIE!
BUT ZABO IS IN A RAGE! HE WILL SLAY MANY UNLESS HE HAS A VICTIM!
MORE THAN ONE VICTIM!

TIE HER WELL, AND LET US HURRY! ZABO WILL SMELL BLOOD SOON!
EEEEE—
I'M SORRY, LITTLE ONE, BUT ONE MUST DIE THAT MANY MAY LIVE!

GRRRRRRRRR—
ZABO! HE COMES FOR HIS FEAST! RUN!
AM I WALKING, FOOL?

N-NO—
AHHHHHH—

YES, THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE WAY I GET MY FORTUNE! THOSE POOR FOOLS OF INDIANS PUT THE FINGER ON THEMSELVES!

SO THE NEXT MORNING MATT BARSTOW PUTS HIS CRUEL PLAN INTO EXECUTION...
NO, SEÑOR! PLEASE NO! WE FEAR THE TEMPLE!
HIEEE! ZABO WILL GET US!
MOVE ALONG OR I'LL KILL YA RIGHT HERE AND NOW! HURRY!

THE ALTAR, SEÑOR! WHY YOU BRING US TO THE ALTAR OF ZABO?
HE IS GOING TO SLAY US!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BOYS! YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE BAIT THAT GETS ZABO OUT OF THE WAY FOR ME!

EEEE!
GAAA!
ZABO WILL DEVOUR OUR BODIES --UNHH!
SORRY, BOYS, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET TO THAT TREASURE!

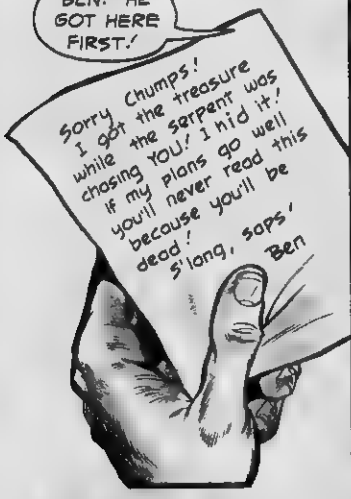
MINUTES LATER...
THERE HE IS! ZABO AFTER THE SACRIFICES! TIME TO BE ON YOUR WAY, BARSTOW!

OUGHT TO TAKE HIM A LITTLE TIME TO DISPOSE OF HIS--UGH--MEAL! I GOT MAYBE TEN MINUTES!

THAT'S THE HOLE NOW! ALMOST--GASP--THERE! IF THERE'S ANY TREASURE IT'S GOT TO BE INSIDE!

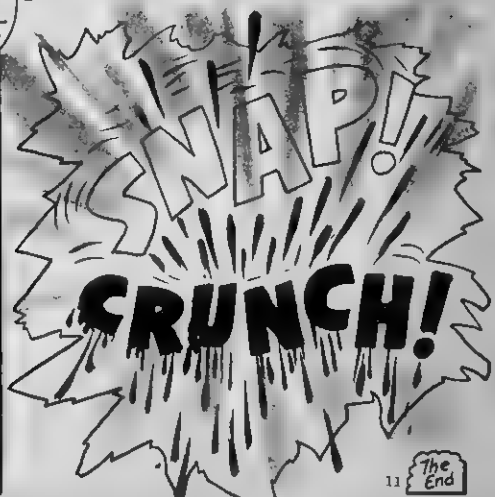
THE DEN OF THE FEATHERED SERPENT! A STENCH OF MUSTY DEATH FILLS THE AIR...
I MADE IT! BUT G-GOT TO HURRY BEFORE THAT THING COMES BACK! TREASURE MUST BE IN THAT BOX!

EMPTY! NOTHING BUT A--A NOTE?


BEN! HE GOT HERE FIRST!
Sorry Chumps! I got the treasure while the serpent was chasing YOU! I hid it! If my plans go well you'll never read this because you'll be dead! S'long, saps! Ben

BEN! CURSE HIM! THAT'S WHY HE WAS QUESTIONING ME LAST NIGHT! HE WANTED ME ARRESTED FOR MURDER, OUT OF THE WAY! BUT I KILLED HIM! AND I HAVE NO IDEA OF WHERE HE HID THE TREASURE! I'VE BEEN CHEATED!

THE D-DOOR! OPENING! I CAN'T GET OUT! THE SERPENT-- NO--AHHH!


SNAP!
CRUNCH!

The End

SKULL SCAVENGER

IN THE MUSTY CRUMBLING RUINS OF AN OLD MONASTERY THEY FOUND HIM—A LITTLE MAN WITH A FACE LIKE A CORPSE, SEARCHING THROUGH PIECES OF ROTTING BONES! HIS STORY WAS FANTASTIC, HIS LIFE WAS INCREDIBLE, AND IN HIS QUAVERING VOICE WAS TERROR SUCH AS NO MAN HAD EVER KNOWN BEFORE! FOR THIS WAS

THE MAN WHO LIVED TOO LONG...

I-I WAS ONLY LOOKING FOR A SKULL!
A SKULL! UGH--YOU LOOK LIKE ONE YOURSELF, OLD MAN! YOU'LL HAVE TO COME ALONG WITH US!

NO, PLEASE! I MUST REMAIN UNTIL I FIND A CERTAIN SKULL! A NEW CRYPT WAS FOUND JUST RECENTLY AND THE SKULL I SEEK MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE! PLEASE--I BEG OF YOU!
YOU MUST BE MAD, OLD MAN!

BUT...
THE NIGHT IS LONG, ANDRE, AND PERHAPS THE OLD FOOL HAS A STORY AFTER ALL! IT WILL DO NO HARM TO LISTEN!
IF YOU SAY SO, MY FRIEND!

THANK YOU, SIRS! YOU--CHUCKLE--WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED! BUT NOW, BE PREPARED FOR A SHOCK, BECAUSE MY STORY BEGINS NINE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT--I LIVED THEN, IN THE TENTH CENTURY! AND I LOVED A MAIDEN...
JULES, DEAREST, IF ONLY THIS MOMENT WOULD NEVER END!
YOU MUST NOT BE SAD, MY SWEET! REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU!

OH, JULES, YOU MEAN THAT SILLY EXPERIMENT OF YOURS? THE ELIXIR OF LIFE?
NOT AS SILLY AS YOU THINK, PERHAPS!

YOU KNOW THAT I'M A FINE ALCHEMIST, MY ANNE! I WORK EVERY NIGHT IN MY TOWER, AND EVERY NIGHT I GET CLOSER TO THE SECRET! I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE IS AN ELIXIR OF LIFE-- AND I WILL FIND IT!
BUT IT FRIGHTENS ME!

WE MORTALS ARE NOT MEANT TO KNOW SUCH THINGS! WE MUST DIE, AS ALL THINGS DO! PLEASE GIVE UP THIS DREADFUL ALCHEMY BEFORE SOME TERRIBLE FATE BEFALLS US!
DO NOT BE AFRAID! I KNOW WHAT I AM DOING!

AND THAT NIGHT, AS USUAL, I WORKED IN MY TOWER, SEARCHING FOR THE ELIXIR OF LIFE! MY BLACK CAT, LUCIFER, KEPT ME COMPANY...
HOURS LATER I PULLED MYSELF OFF THE FLOOR...

SO WE TRY AGAIN, OLD CAT! PERHAPS TONIGHT I WILL DISCOVER IT! NOW TO DRINK!

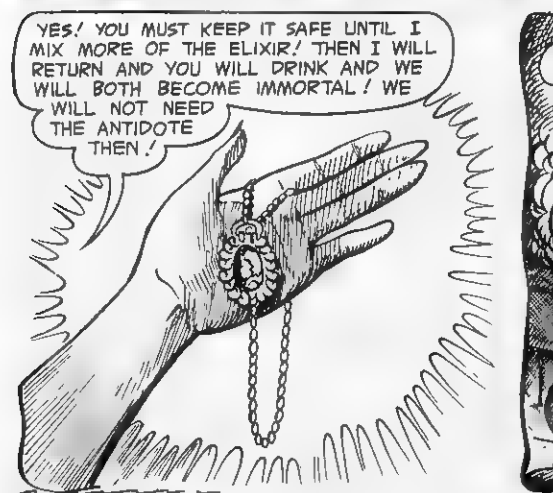
OH--THE PAIN! I'M ON FIRE INSIDE-- SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING THAT NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
I HASTENED TO TELL MY ANNE ABOUT MY SUCCESS...

I'VE GOT IT AT LAST! I KNOW I HAVE! THIS MARVELOUS FEELING OF YOUTH, STRENGTH, AS THOUGH I CAN NEVER DIE!

I'VE DONE IT, DARLING! I'VE REALLY DISCOVERED THE ELIXIR OF LIFE! AND I'VE DONE MORE THAN THAT, TOO!
M-MORE, JULES! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YES, I'VE BEEN VERY CLEVER! NO SOONER WAS I CERTAIN THAT I HAD DISCOVERED THE ELIXIR THAT I PREPARED AN ANTIDOTE! JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, JULES!

DON'T YOU SEE? SUPPOSE YOU DIED BEFORE YOU DRANK THE ELIXIR, THEN I WOULD BE ALONE! I WOULD BE IMMORTAL--I COULD NEVER JOIN YOU IN DEATH! BUT WITH THIS ANTIDOTE I CAN UNDO THE POWER OF THE ELIXIR!
IT'S IN THE LOCKET?

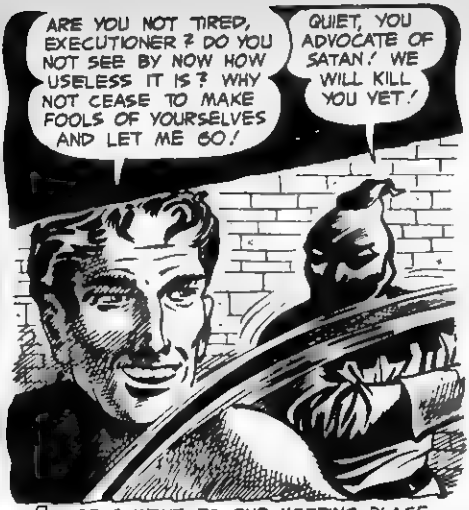

YES! YOU MUST KEEP IT SAFE UNTIL I MIX MORE OF THE ELIXIR! THEN I WILL RETURN AND YOU WILL DRINK AND WE WILL BOTH BECOME IMMORTAL! WE WILL NOT NEED THE ANTIDOTE THEN!

I HURRIED BACK TO MY TOWER...
NOW FOR MORE OF THE ELIXIR! WHEN ANNE DRINKS WE NEED FEAR DEATH NO LONGER! WE WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER--ALWAYS YOUNG!

BUT SUDDENLY...
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST--FOR WITCHCRAFT! SEIZE HIM!
B-BUT YOU CAN'T...

TAKE HIM TO THE CASTLE FOR TORTURE! HE HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF CONSORTING WITH THE DEVIL!
YES--WE'LL SOON WRINK THE TRUTH FROM HIM!
YOU FOOLS! I AM NO WITCH!

I WAS HORRIBLY TORTURED, BUT I LAUGHED AT THEM BECAUSE I KNEW I COULD NOT DIE...
FLOG ME, BREAK ME ON THE WHEEL! YOU WILL SEE WHO WINS!


ARE YOU NOT TIRED, EXECUTIONER? DO YOU NOT SEE BY NOW HOW USELESS IT IS? WHY NOT CEASE TO MAKE FOOLS OF YOURSELVES AND LET ME GO!
QUIET, YOU ADVOCATE OF SATAN! WE WILL KILL YOU YET!

BUT IN THE END THEY BECAME DEATHLY AFRAID OF ME AND DROVE ME FROM THE CASTLE...
OUT, YOU FOUL FIEND! NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE!
HAH! I HAVE BEATEN THEM!
HE IS TRULY A WITCH-- HE CANNOT DIE!

LATER I WENT TO OUR MEETING PLACE IN SEARCH OF ANNE...
SHE IS LATE, VERY LATE! CAN ANYTHING HAVE HAPPENED? SHE HAS STILL TO DRINK OF THE ELIXIR!

W-WHO ARE YOU, OLD CRONE? WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT?
I BRING YOU NEWS-- BAD NEWS! YOUR MAIDEN, ANNE, WILL NEVER COME HERE TO MEET YOU AGAIN!

SHE WAS ACCUSED OF AIDING YOU-- IN WITCHCRAFT! I WATCHED AS THEY STRANGLED HER! SHE WILL BE BURIED IN SOME SECRET PLACE!

NO--OLD HAG! NO! YOU LIE! THIS MONSTROUS THING CANNOT BE TRUE!
AHH! BUT IT IS!

AND IT WAS TRUE! I HAD BEEN TOO CLEVER! I COULD NOT FIND ANNE'S BODY OR THE LOCKET WITH THE ANTIDOTE, AND TRY AS I WOULD I COULD NOT MIX MORE! I WAS DRIVEN OUT OF TOWN AFTER TOWN...
IF ONLY I COULD DIE-- BUT THAT IS THE ONE THING I CANNOT DO!
IF ONLY I COULD MIX THE ANTIDOTE AGAIN-- BUT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING RARE, SOME IMPURITY, IN MY FORMULA THE FIRST TIME! I HAVE TRIED AND TRIED--BUT THE ELIXIR WILL NOT LET ME DIE!
BUT AS TIME PASSED I MADE ANOTHER HORRIBLE DISCOVERY--THE ELIXIR KEPT ME FROM DYING, BUT NOT FROM GROWING OLD...
THERE IS THE OLD WITCH!
KILL HIM! BURN HIM!
TIME AFTER TIME THEY TRIED TO KILL ME! IF ONLY THEY COULD HAVE SUCCEEDED--BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE...
BURN THE WITCH AT THE STAKE! LIGHT THE FAGGOTS!
PERHAPS THIS TIME THEY WILL SUCCEED AND GIVE ME PEACE AT LAST!
BURN HIM!
AHH--THE FIRE WILL NOT BURN!
IT IS TRUE--THE WOOD REFUSES THE FLAME!
STILL I MUST LIVE!
THIS IS WITCHCRAFT, INDEED!
SO I MUST GO ON--AND ON! I AM NOW 200 YEARS OLD AND STILL WITH NO HOPE OF DEATH! IF ONLY, SOMEHOW, I COULD FIND THE BODY OF ANNE, COULD RETRIEVE THE ANTIDOTE IN THE LOCKET I GAVE HER!

THAT IS THE FIRST PART OF MY STORY, SIRS! BUT IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY, AS I PASSED MY 900TH BIRTHDAY, THAT I FOUND HOPE AT LAST!
YOU ARE INSANE, SURE ENOUGH!
BUT GO ON, OLD MAN!

I HAD WANDERED AROUND THE WORLD SCORES OF TIMES--AND NOW I FOUND MYSELF IN LONDON ONCE MORE! ONE DAY I HEARD AN EXTRA BEING CRIED...

EXTRA! ALL ABOUT THE OLD MONASTERY! FIND TREASURE WORTH MILLIONS! EXTRA!
HERE, LAD!
XTRA

IT IS! THE VERY MONASTERY WHERE ANNE AND I USED TO MEET! I MUST GO THERE AT ONCE!
EWS
WORLD
TREASURE FOUND

IN TEARING DOWN THE MONASTERY THEY HAD FOUND BURIED TREASURE, BUT I CARED LITTLE FOR THAT! WHAT MATTERED TO ME WAS THAT THEY HAD ALSO FOUND A SECRET CRYPT WHERE A WOMAN ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT HAD BEEN BURIED! IT COULD ONLY BE ANNE...
IF ONLY THEY HAVEN'T DISTURBED THE BONES TOO MUCH!

TONIGHT I CAME HERE TO SEARCH FOR THAT SECRET CRYPT! MY HOPES WERE HIGH THAT AT LAST I WOULD FIND THE BONES OF ANNE--AND THE LOCKET WITH THE ANTIDOTE! YOU KNOW THE REST!

I BEG OF YOU, IN THE MERCY OF HEAVEN, LET ME CONTINUE MY SEARCH! I MUST FIND THAT LOCKET--I MUST!
ALL RIGHT, OLD ONE!

THE CRYPT IS DOWN HERE IN THIS OLD DUNGEON! BUT YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF YOU CAN FIND THAT LOCKET!
YOU BEGIN TO BELIEVE THE OLD FOOL, THEN ?
THANK YOU! I MUST FIND IT!

THIS IS THE CRYPT, NO DOUBT OF IT! WHERE THEY BURIED MY POOR ANNE 900 YEARS AGO! THEY THOUGHT HER GUILTY OF WITCH-CRAFT AND BURIED HER SECRETLY IN UNHALLOWED GROUND!

THE LOCKET! I HAVE FOUND IT AT LAST! THANK GOODNESS! AND THIS MUST BE ANNE'S SKULL-- MY POOR, DEAR LOVE, WAITING FOR ME ALL THESE WEARY CENTURIES! BUT NOW I CAN JOIN HER!

CAREFUL, OLD MAN!
THE ANTIDOTE! AT LAST I CAN DIE!

LOOK! H-HE IS G-GONE! JUST A SKELETON NOW! HIS STORY WAS TRUE, AFTER ALL!
YES, INCREDIBLE AS IT WAS!

SEE, THEY ARE TOGETHER IN DEATH AT LAST! TWO MOULDERING PILES OF BONES!
COME, MY FRIEND, AND LET US LEAVE THEM IN PEACE!
The End

House of CHILLS

TERROR ROLLED LIKE FOG THROUGH THE NARROW STREETS AND THE GOOD FOLK OF MUNSTER-SCHLOSS LIVED IN DEADLY FEAR OF THE HUMAN WOLVES THAT ROVED THE NIGHT! DEATH—AND WORSE—WAS EVERYWHERE! YET NONE COULD REALLY KNOW OF THE EERIE AND TERRIBLE DEEDS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE HOUSE THAT HORROR BUILT...

ON A NEARBY STREET...

IN 1815, AFTER THE NAPOLEONIC WARS, HUNGER STALKED THE VILLAGE OF MUNSTER-SCHLOSS...

GET AWAY, YOU CUR! THE BONE IS MINE!

THERE IS NO FOOD IN ALL GERMANY! WE WILL ALL STARVE SOON!

GRRRR-

GET UP, YOU LAZY BEAST! UP, I SAY! YOU ARE LUCKY, AT LEAST YOU CAN EAT GRASS! WHILE I STARVE!

WHILE IN THE HOME OF ADOLF, THE MISER...
HEH-HEH—ANOTHER ONE! THERE WILL BE MEAT TONIGHT—FOR THOSE WHO CAN PAY! KARL! KARL, YOU FOOL!
HURRY, YOU FOOL! THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE! A HORSE TO BE FETCHED TO THE CASTLE TONIGHT!
ANOTHER ONE! GOOD! I WILL SHARPEN MY CLEAVER AND KNIFE WELL! HAH-HAH...
SO LATE THAT NIGHT AT AN OLD CASTLE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...
SEE, ADOLF, HOW STRONG I AM! HO-HO!
FOOL! IDIOT! MAKE HASTE! YOU KNOW IT IS AGAINST THE LAW—WHAT WE DO!
AGAINST THE LAW, PERHAPS! HAH! WHO CARES FOR LAW WHEN THEY ARE HUNGRY? AND I AM THE BEST BUTCHER IN ALL GERMANY!
THE RUMOR SPREAD AND ALL NIGHT THE OLD CASTLE WAS VISITED BY HUNGRY PEOPLE...
I M-MUST. GO! YOU HAVE BEEN WELL PAID!
FAREWELL, MY FRIEND! TELL EVERYONE! BUT THEY MUST HURRY!
AND LATER...
FATHER! ARE YOU IN THERE, FATHER?
IN HERE, MY CHILD! COME IN!
A GOOD NIGHT INDEED! HAH— THERE IS GRETCHEN NOW!

IN ALL THE WORLD THERE IS BUT ONE THING THAT THE MISER LOVES—HIS DAUGHTER GRETCHEN! SWEET AND INNOCENT, SHE DOES NOT SUSPECT THE GREED AND FIERCE CRUELTY THAT LURK IN HIS HEART...

HERE! A PRESENT FOR YOU!

A GOLD RING! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

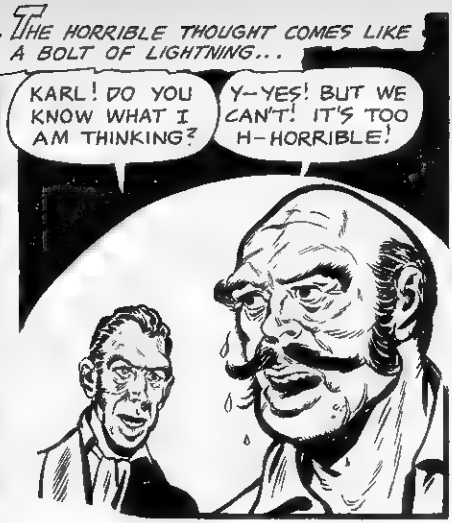
FATHER! I WAS WORRIED! WHAT TOOK YOU OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?

BUSINESS, MY DEAR! ONLY BUSINESS! YOU MUSTN'T ASK QUESTIONS!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE, THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT AGREE...

AND THE NEXT DAY...
SO YOU SEE, ADOLF, YOU HAVE BROKEN THE LAW! THERE IS A LONG PRISON SENTENCE FOR SELLING, ER, A CERTAIN KIND OF MEAT! SUCH ANIMALS ARE PROTECTED!
YOU HAVE NO PROOF!
PROOF? BAH—I HAVE ALL I NEED! I SHALL HAVE TO TO ARREST YOU—UNLESS...
UNLESS?
SOME OF YOUR GOLD, OLD MISER! A FAIR SHARE IMMEDIATELY!
BLACKMAIL! I WILL NEVER PAY! NOBODY TAKES MY GOLD FROM ME!
I WILL HAVE IT! YOU OLD FOOL! I'LL SEARCH UNTIL I FIND IT AND SEND YOU TO PRISON, TOO!
NEVER!
SUDDENLY...
KARL! THAT CLEAVER—NO...
IT IS SHARP, FOOL! I AM A GOOD BUTCHER!
YOU WILL TELL NO ONE! HAH-HAH-HAH!

DEAD! I DID NOT THINK, ADOLF! NOW WE WILL HANG!
NO! HE CAME TO BLACKMAIL, SO IT'S NOT LIKELY HE TOLD ANYONE! BUT THE BODY— WE MUST GET RID OF THE BODY COMPLETELY!


THE HORRIBLE THOUGHT COMES LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING...
KARL! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM THINKING?
Y-YES! BUT WE CAN'T! IT'S TOO H-HORRIBLE!

HORRIBLE, EH? HANGING IS WORSE! TAKE HIM TO THE CASTLE TONIGHT!
Y-YES, ADOLF! TONIGHT!

SO THAT NIGHT...
HURRY, ADOLF! I—I AM UNEASY!
FOOL! WE WILL BE RICHER THAN EVER! YOU WILL SEE!

I HAVE A PLAN, MY BUTCHER! THERE ARE NO MORE HORSES TO BE HAD, BUT...
NO, ADOLF! YOU ARE MAD! THIS ONCE, TO SAVE OUR NECKS, BUT NO MORE!

YES, FOOL! YES! WHO WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE? WE START RIGHT AWAY! NOW GET ON WITH THIS ONE!

SO THE PILE OF GOLD MOUNTED AND MOUNTED AS THE DAYS PASSED...
SOON I WILL HAVE ENOUGH! THEN GRETCHEN AND I WILL GO AWAY— AFTER I TAKE CARE OF THAT FOOL KARL!
AND FOR THE ONE THING HE LOVED HE BOUGHT JEWELS OF EVERY KIND...
FATHER IS SO KIND! I WONDER WHY THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN WHISPER AGAINST HIM?
BUT OF ALL MY GIFTS, I LIKE THE RING BEST! DEAR FATHER!
WHILE OVER THE VILLAGE THERE CREPT THE CHILL OF DEATH! THE POLICE WERE HELPLESS WHILE TERROR WAITED IN EVERY CORNER...
AND THOSE WHO VENTURED OUT...
SO Q-QUIET! EVERYONE LOCKED IN THEIR HOUSES!
...DID SO AT THEIR PERIL...
GAAAAAA-
ANOTHER ONE! ADOLF WILL BE PLEASED TONIGHT!

BUT AS THE DAYS PASSED AND THE PROFITS GREW, THE MISER GREW UNEASY...
I HAVE ENOUGH GOLD! AND KARL IS DANGEROUS, HE KNOWS TOO MUCH ABOUT ME! HE MUST GO— AND TONIGHT WILL DO AS WELL AS ANY!
I MUST GO TO THE CASTLE! BETTER TELL GRETCHEN SO SHE WILL NOT BE WORRIED! SOON WE WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE FOREVER!
GONE! WELL, NO MATTER! SHE MUST BE WITH ONE OF HER FRIENDS! I CAN FINISH MY, AHEM, BUSINESS AND BE BACK BEFORE SHE RETURNS!
THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER VISIT THE OLD CASTLE! POOR KARL! HE WAS A STUPID FOOL TO TRUST ME!
I'LL MAKE IT QUICK! THEN HIDE ALL THE EVIDENCE, GET MY GOLD INTO A TRUNK AND TAKE GRETCHEN!
THEY'LL NEVER FIND US! AND GRETCHEN, SWEET CHILD, MUST NEVER SUSPECT WHAT A MONSTER HER FATHER HAS BEEN!

MINUTES LATER...
THERE IS KARL! SO INDUSTRIOUS! I MUST GET THIS OVER QUICKLY!
BUT KARL HEARS THE SLITHER OF FEET AND...
ADOLF! YOU ALREADY! PLEASE, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT!
DO WHAT, KARL?
I DIDN'T KNOW, ADOLF! I DIDN'T KNOW! IT WAS DARK — I COULDN'T SEE! NO! DON'T SHOOT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GIBBERING ABOUT, FOOL! I CAME HERE TO DO— THIS!
GAAAAAAA—
THERE! BUT WHAT WAS THE FOOL SCREAMING ABOUT? AS THOUGH HE'D MADE SOME TERRIBLE MISTAKE...
THAT— NO! EEEEEEEEE—
The End

DEVIL FLOWER

DEATH LURKED IN THE PETALS OF AN EVIL FLOWER, BUT WHO WAS THE MONSTER THAT KEPT THE VICIOUS BLOSSOM THRIVING? — FOR THIS INVOLVED TERRIFYING MASS MURDER!

THE STRANGE ADVENTURE BEGAN WHEN THE "DRIFTWIND", POUNDED BY SAVAGE SEAS, COULD NO LONGER REMAIN AFLOAT, AND AS SHE BEGAN TO LIST, SHE WAS PUTTING AN END TO WINSTON CREIG'S DREAM, OF REACHING A FRIENDLY TROPICAL SHORE...

STILL, AS IF BY SOME MIRACLE, WINSTON MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE, AND CRAWL OUT OF THE SURF...

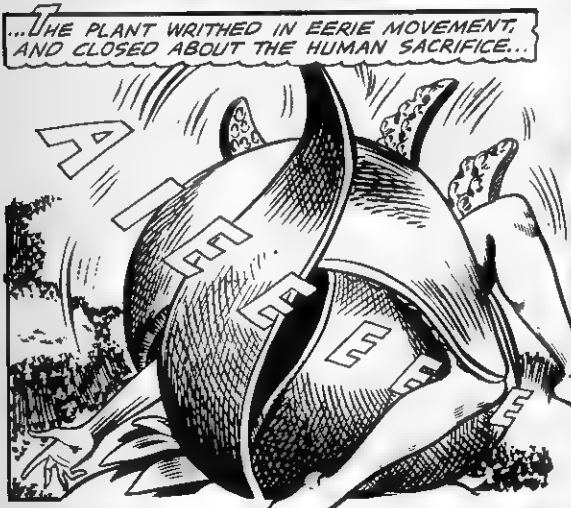
THE BEACH! I MADE IT! I'M ALIVE!

WINSTON'S LUCK STILL HELD OUT... THE NATIVES OF THE ISLAND WERE FRIENDLY, AND THERE WAS LITTLE TO DO, BUT AWAIT THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR, THE ISLAND WAS USED AS A PORT OF CALL BY A PASSING SHIP... AND THAT DAY WAS FAR DISTANT...

PERHAPS IF THERE HAD BEEN SOMETHING ELSE TO TAKE UP HIS TIME, WINSTON CREIG WOULDN'T HAVE LET THE SECRET RITES, BECOME SUCH A BURNING OBSESSION... FINALLY HIS CURIOUSITY COULD NO LONGER BE CONTAINED — AND HE DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE NATIVE GROUP...

GREAT SCOTT! THAT PLANT IS GIGANTIC! AND THEY'RE WORSHIPPING IT!

SUDDENLY BEFORE WINSTON'S HORRIFIED EYES, A MAIDEN WAS SEIZED, AND TOSSED SCREAMING, AT THE HUGE FLOWER...


...THE PLANT WRITHED IN EERIE MOVEMENT, AND CLOSED ABOUT THE HUMAN SACRIFICE...

NO... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S GONE! BUT IT'S BLACK MAGIC! SUCH A THING, CAN'T REALLY HAPPEN!

AFTER THE NATIVES LEFT, WINSTON BEGAN A PRIVATE EXAMINATION, OF THE MAN-EATER...
LOOKS INNOCENT ENOUGH NOW! MAYBE IT WAS AN ILLUSION...

WAAA— GRABBING AT ME!

EVERY PRECIOUS MOMENT, UNTIL THE SHIP FINALLY ARRIVED, WINSTON CREIG GUARDED HIS FANTASTIC TREASURE... AND SOON, THE DAY CAME WHEN HE HAD IT SAFELY ABOARD SHIP...

THIS IS NO JOKE, MY FRIEND! COME, I'LL SHOW YOU!
UNBELIEVABLE! I'VE HEARD OF THEM, BUT I THOUGHT, SUCH THINGS WERE ONLY PRODUCTS, OF THE IMAGINATION!

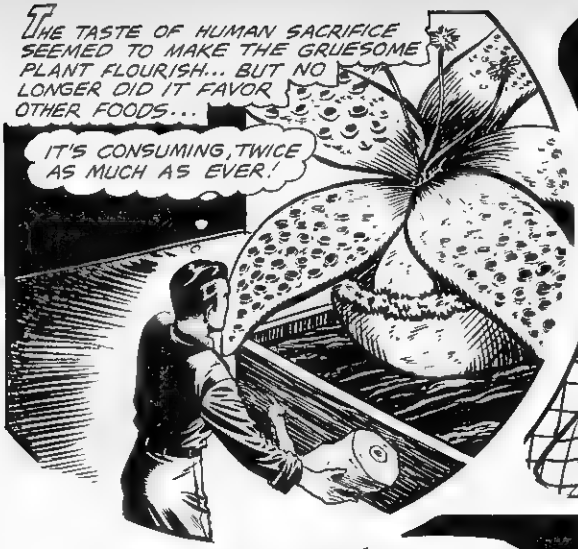
WATCH MY PLANT DEVOUR THIS MEAT! THIS, IS NO IMAGINARY THING!
G-GRACIOUS!

BUT THIS WOULD HAVE NO PLACE, IN A MUSEUM! FRANKLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD LOSE NO TIME REPORTING THIS TO THE POLICE!
POLICE! THIS PLANT IS PRICE-LESS! THE POLICE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

YOU'RE WRONG, MR. CREIG! IT COULD KILL A MAN, AND...
ENOUGH! IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL!

THE STRUGGLE WAS BRIEF, FOR THE PLANT REACHED OUT, AND CLUTCHED ITS FIRST VICTIM...
OHHH...
HELP!

KILLED HIM! B-BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T PLAN THIS! I'M INNOCENT OF HIS DEATH... THE FOOL!



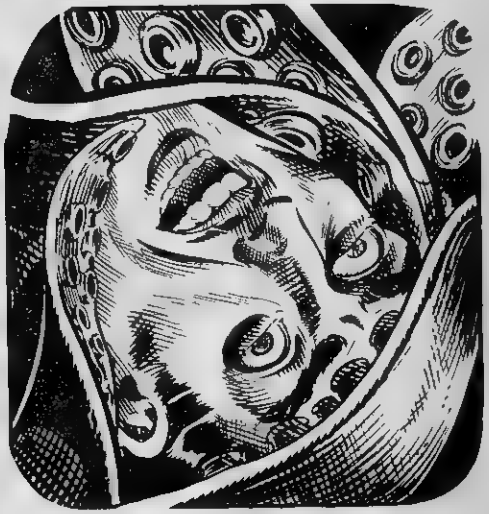
DRIVEN TO A NEW MADNESS TO PROTECT HIS EVIL POSSESSION, WINSTON CREIG PLACED AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR A HOUSEKEEPER... THE NEXT SACRIFICE WAS FIGURED OUT MOST CAREFULLY...

EACH DAY, A NEW APPLICANT CAME TO CREIG'S ADDRESS... AND FROM THERE, THEY WOULD NEVER RETURN...
YOU'RE QUITE STOUT, AREN'T YOU, MRS. KANE?
I BELIEVE IN EATING WELL, MR. CREIG, DON'T YOU?
A FEVER RAGED IN WINSTON'S DEMENTED MIND... A FEVER THAT COMMANDED HIM TO SEEK MORE AND MORE VICTIMS FOR HIS PLANT...
YOU'RE LATE! I EXPECTED YOU AN HOUR AGO!
I'M SORRY, MR. CREIG— I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET HERE, AND...
BUT MURDER DOESN'T HIDE ITS UGLY FACE FOREVER...
ANOTHER DOMESTIC MISSING! WE'RE ABLE TO TRACE THEM ALL TO ONE ADDRESS...
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, BOSS?
POLICE DEPARTMENT, MR. CREIG. WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE, WITH YOUR HELP?
THEY COME AND GO... I DON'T FOLLOW UP THEIR WHEREABOUTS AFTER THEY LEAVE!
THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK AROUND THIS PLACE?
N— NOT AT ALL! COME! I'LL SHOW YOU...
DO YOU KEEP ALL YOUR ROOMS LOCKED, MR. CREIG?
NO. JUST THIS SPECIAL ONE... BUT FOR AN EXCELLENT REASON, WHICH I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU!

WINSTON CREIG OUTWITTED HIMSELF AT LONG LAST... HE FORGOT THAT THE POLICE ARE TRAINED FOR SURPRISES...
WHAT'S THIS?
A PLANT, MY FRIEND! A MAN-EATING PLANT!

OH, NO YOU DON'T!
LOOK OUT! DON'T SHOVE ME NEAR IT!

WHILE THE LAW LOOKED ON IN FROZEN HORROR, WINSTON CREIG BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR...
AIEEEEE



A FRANTIC REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS, BROUGHT MORE MEN TO THE ROOM OF VIOLENT DEATH...
WELL, WE'VE KILLED THAT PLANT... BUT ARE YOU SURE...
WOW! TAKE A LOOK AT IT NOW, CHIEF!

A HUMAN GRAVEYARD WITHIN THAT DEVIL PLANT! THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE REPORT THAT WON'T BE EASY TO WRITE UP! WHO'LL BELIEVE IT?
THE END

And DEATH makes THREE!

THREE STRANGE AND SINISTER PEOPLE PLOTTED THE MOST AMAZING CRIME OF ALL TIME—THE ROBBERY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND! THE LOOT—NOT GOLD, BUT A TINY BIT OF MATTER THAT COULD DESTROY MILLIONS! YOU'LL GASP WITH HORROR AS YOU READ THIS INCREDIBLE TALE OF **THE INVISIBLE CROOKS...**

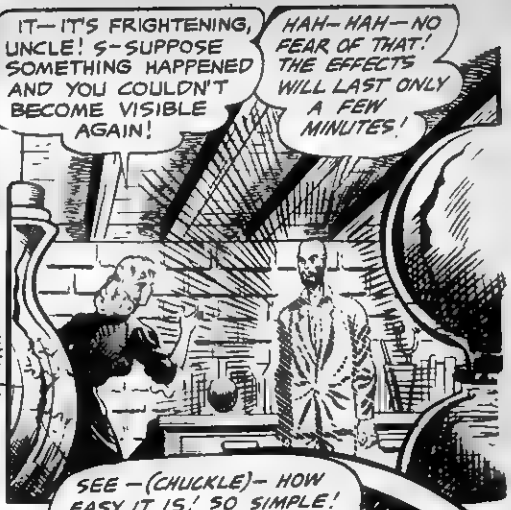
THEY CAN'T SEE ME! G-GOING TO KILL ME—EEEEEEEEE—

LONDON, AUGUST 6th, 1952! NINE O'CLOCK ON A WARM EVENING! PLACE, THE LABORATORY OF ONE PROFESSOR WELLING...

TIME AT LAST, VANESSA! NOW WE'LL KNOW IF ALL OUR WORK HAS BEEN FOR NOTHING!

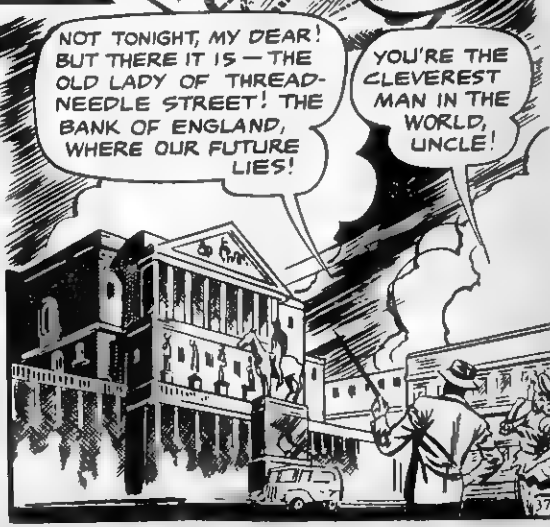
DO HURRY, UNCLE! I CAN'T BEAR THIS SUSPENSE!

I MEASURED THE DOSAGE CAREFULLY! IT WILL WEAR OFF VERY QUICKLY! PREPARE YOURSELF, MY GIRL!



PROFESSOR WELLING IS NOW INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE...

LATER AS THE DRUG WEARS OFF AND THE PROFESSOR RETURNS TO NORMAL...



NEXT AFTERNOON TOWARD THE CLOSE OF BANKING HOURS...

I FEEL SO FUNNY, WALKING WITH YOU LIKE THIS! L-LIKE WALKING WITH A GHOST!

NEVER MIND THAT! JUST REMEMBER OUR PLAN—IT MUST GO LIKE CLOCKWORK! DRAW THE GUARD TO ONE SIDE!

GUARD! PLEASE, I WOULD LIKE SOME INFORMATION!

WHAT IS IT, MISS?

IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY! NOW TO GET IN AND OUT AGAIN BEFORE THE DRUG WEARS OFF!

A GUARD! OF COURSE THEY WOULD HAVE A GUARD EVEN DOWN HERE! SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

FOR ONE STARTLING MOMENT THE BEWILDERED GUARD SEES A CRUEL KNIFE GLINTING IN MID-AIR, THEN...

HUH—GAAAAAA—

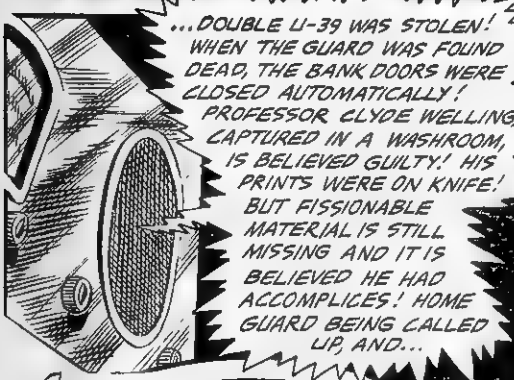
TOO BAD THAT METAL DOESN'T REACT TO THE FORMULA AS ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATTER DOES! BUT THERE!

GOT IT! MINE AT LAST—THE ONLY SUPPLY OF DOUBLE U-39 IN THE WORLD! ENOUGH FISSIONABLE MATTER TO BLOW UP ALL ENGLAND! CLEVER OF THEM TO HIDE IT IN THIS BANK, BUT NOT—(CHUCKLE)—CLEVER ENOUGH!

ACCORDING TO PLAN, VANESSA WELLING AWAITS HER UNCLE AT THE APPOINTED PLACE...
HE DID IT! T-THAT THING SEEMS TO FLOAT ON AIR! IF ANYONE SEES IT BEFORE IT REACHES ME...
BUT NOBODY DOES...
THERE, MY DEAR! NOW WALK CALMLY OUT AND MEET ME BACK AT THE FLAT! I MUST GET TO A WASHROOM—BEGINNING TO MATERIALIZE AGAIN!
Y-YES, UNCLE!
VANESSA MAKES A PHONE CALL...
MARTIN? WE SUCCEEDED, DARLING! YES, I'VE GOT IT NOW! IN MY BAG! NO, UNCLE DOESN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING!
FINE! GO STRAIGHT TO MY HOUSE! I'LL BE THERE WHEN YOU ARRIVE!
SO WITH A LEAD COFFER CONTAINING TWENTY-MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF DOUBLE U-39...
IT'S OVER! WE'VE GOT IT! AND NOW TO PUT MY OWN LITTLE PLAN INTO OPERATION!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
MARTIN? IT'S ME, VANESSA! OPEN THE DOOR!
JUST A MINUTE, BABY! BE RIGHT THERE!
COME IN, VANESSA! SO WE'VE DONE IT AT LAST! WHERE'S YOUR FOOL OF AN UNCLE?
WAITING FOR ME AT HIS PLACE! WE'VE GOT TO RUN FOR IT, DARLING! HE'LL KILL US BOTH!

HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S WORTH TWENTY MILLION— TO A CERTAIN GOVERNMENT!
WE MUST HURRY, MARTIN! GET ACROSS THE CHANNEL AT ONCE! WE WON'T BE SAFE UNTIL WE REACH EAST BERLIN!
EMERGENCY FLASH! STAND BY FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE...

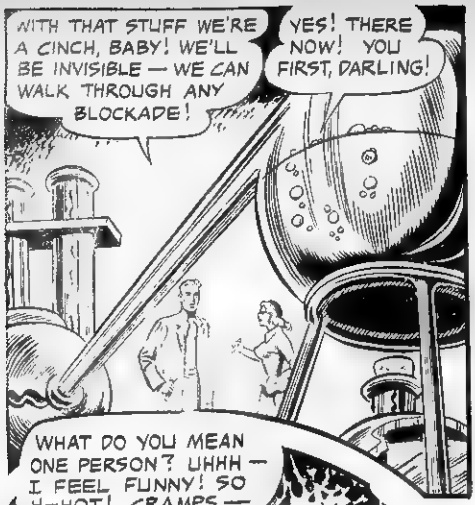
TO ALL POLICE AND MILITARY! CONDITION AAA NOW IN EFFECT! WATCH ALL AIRPORTS, STATIONS, PORTS! ALL TRAFFIC TO STOP! SUSPICIOUS PERSONS TO BE HELD WITHOUT WARRANT! AND HEAR THIS...
MY SHORT-WAVE SET! SOMETHING BIG ON THE POLICE BAND!
DON'T YOU KNOW? IT C-CAN'T BE ANYTHING ELSE!


...DOUBLE U-39 WAS STOLEN! WHEN THE GUARD WAS FOUND DEAD, THE BANK DOORS WERE CLOSED AUTOMATICALLY! PROFESSOR CLYDE WELLING, CAPTURED IN A WASHROOM, IS BELIEVED GUILTY! HIS PRINTS WERE ON KNIFE! BUT FISSIONABLE MATERIAL IS STILL MISSING AND IT IS BELIEVED HE HAD ACCOMPLICES! HOME GUARD BEING CALLED UP, AND...

THEY GOT UNCLE! HE'LL TELL THEM— WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY NOW!
THE FOOL! BUT WE'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE! EVEN IF HE TALKS, THEY WON'T BELIEVE THAT INVISIBLE MAN STUFF! LET'S GET TO HIS LAB!

ALREADY THE STREETS ARE HALF DESERTED...
GOING TO BE CLOSE! THEY GOT A CORDON AROUND LONDON!
HURRY, MARTIN, HURRY! THEY'RE AFTER US!
STOP, YOU CHAP!

CAN YOU MAKE THAT INVISIBLE DOPE WORK?
I T-THINK SO! I'VE WATCHED UNCLE DO IT ENOUGH!

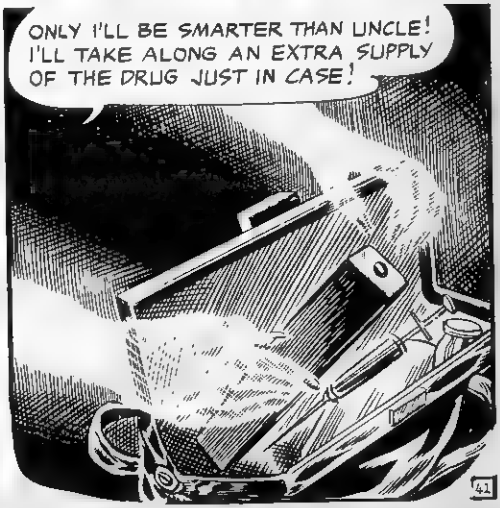

WITH THAT STUFF WE'RE A CINCH, BABY! WE'LL BE INVISIBLE — WE CAN WALK THROUGH ANY BLOCKADE!
YES! THERE NOW! YOU FIRST, DARLING!

GOING TO FEEL FUNNY BEING INVISIBLE! BUT IT'LL SAVE OUR NECKS — AND TWENTY MILLION IN GOLD!
AND WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO DOUBLE-CROSS UNCLE AFTER ALL! THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE PERSON TO TAKE CARE OF...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ONE PERSON? UHHH — I FEEL FUNNY! SO H-HOT! CRAMPS — UNNNNNNNN —

Y-YOU DOUBLE— AHHHHHHHH...
YES, I DID DOUBLE-CROSS YOU, MARTIN! GOODBYE, SWEET! NOW I GET THE TWENTY MILLION, ALL OF IT!

THIS TIME I'LL USE THE REAL FORMULA! AS SOON AS I'M INVISIBLE I CAN START THE TRIP TO EAST BERLIN — AND MY REWARD!


ONLY I'LL BE SMARTER THAN UNCLE! I'LL TAKE ALONG AN EXTRA SUPPLY OF THE DRUG JUST IN CASE!

VANESSA WELLING EMERGES INTO A DESERTED LONDON, A GHOST CITY...
EVERYTHING IS STOPPED! MAKING EVERYONE STAY INSIDE WHILE THEY SEARCH! GOOD THING THEY CAN'T SEE ME!
THINK THEY'LL GET THE BEGGARS THAT DID IT, ALF?
THEY'LL GET THEM RIGHT ENOUGH! GOT ALL ENGLAND SEALED OFF!
HAH-HAH-YOU FOOLS!
BUT A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I—I FEEL SO FUNNY! MAYBE THE DRUG IS WEARING OFF ALREADY! AND THE POLICE CAR COMING...
SURE ENOUGH...
IT IS WEARING OFF! HAVE TO DUCK DOWN HERE AND MAKE ANOTHER INJECTION! OHH—THE POLICE!
HEY THERE!
A RUM GO IF I EVER SAW ONE!
AND A CERTAIN YOUNG SERGEANT WAS ON HIS WAY TO BECOMING AN INSPECTOR BECAUSE HE USED HIS HEAD...
WHAT THE POLICE SAW IN THAT SPLIT SECOND...
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES! MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN THAT CRAZY STORY THEY JUST SENT OUT OVER THE WIRELESS! AN INVISIBLE MAN—BUT THIS WAS A WOMAN! MAYBE I'M BALMY, BUT...
TWEE-WEEEEE
4

AS BELOW IN THE SUBWAY...
MUST HAVE SEEN ME! P-PART OF ME! BUT THE STUFF IS WORKING AGAIN— I'M COMPLETELY INVISIBLE NOW!
HURRY, MEN! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
THAT'S IT! THE MINUTE YOU FEEL ANYTHING, GRAB IT! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OUT!
FEELS BLINKING SILLY THOUGH!
IT IS THE ONLY WAY OUT! I'M TRAPPED!
BUT SUDDENLY LIKE A DEMON OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
A T-TRAIN! CAN'T SEE ME! I'LL BE KILLED— OHHHHHHH—
HOW SILLY OF ME! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE TRACKS RIGHT OUT OF TOWN! ALL TRAFFIC IS STOPPED!
WHILE BACK AT THE STATION...
YOU SAY A TRAIN GOT THROUGH UP THERE! HMMM— MIGHT BE JUST AS WELL, AT THAT! TELL YOU WHAT— SEND ANOTHER ONE THROUGH FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION! CLOSE THE TRAP THAT WAY!
RIGHT ENOUGH, SERGEANT!
NO NEED FOR THAT NOW, SERGEANT! YOU'LL FIND HER SOON ENOUGH, AS SOON AS THE DRUG WEARS OFF AGAIN! OR WHAT'S LEFT OF VANESSA WELLING...
The End

DEBT of FEAR

OUT OF THE DARK AGES THE **BLOODY THING** STALKED TO COLLECT A TERRIBLE DEBT! WHEREVER **IT** STRUCK THERE WAS HORROR, DISEASE AND DEATH! ONLY THE CRUEL DYING OF A LOVELY GIRL COULD APPEASE THE WALKING DEATH...

SO THE STORY THAT APPEARS IS...

÷LE TEMPS÷

THE YOUNG COUNTESS DE MALATROIT DIED TODAY IN THE FAMILY'S OLD CHATEAU NEAR CHARTRES! CAUSE OF DEATH WAS SAID TO BE COMPLICATIONS AS A RESULT OF PNEUMONIA! THE COUNTESS, LAST OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS LINE OF FRENCH ARISTOCRACY WAS ONLY TWENTY-THREE! SHE

BUT THAT NIGHT A LITTLE GROUP OF ANXIOUS MEN GATHER IN A ROOM IN THE OLD CHATEAU...
GENTLEMEN, I TELL YOU I AM SURE OF MY FACTS! WE MUST FACE IT!
INCREDIBLE!
BUT HOW?

THE COUNTESS DIED OF THE PLAGUE! THE RED DEATH!

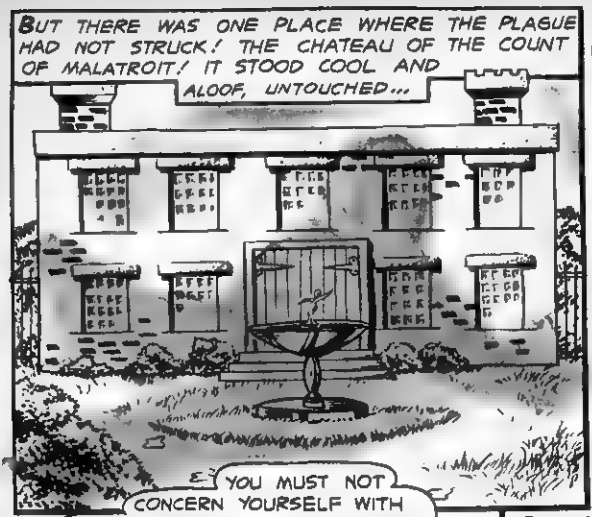
BUT, M'SIEUR, YOU MUST BE WRONG! THERE HAS NOT BEEN A CASE OF--OF THIS RED DEATH IN 500 YEARS!
I KNOW! BUT NEVERTHELESS SHE DIED OF IT! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT EITHER!

GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS! REMEMBER TO KEEP SECRECY!
I WILL REMAIN AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND IN THIS OLD CHATEAU!

WHO KNOWS? THERE MAY BE SOME CLUE IN THESE OLD PAPERS! AS THE FAMILY I CERTAINLY HAVE THE RIGHT--
VIOLA!--THIS PAPER!

HERE! IN THIS OLD DIARY OF THE FIRST COUNT! THE ANSWER!

THROUGH THE RED MISTS THE LAWYER SEEMS TO GO BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES, TO A TOWN GRIPPED BY PLAGUE..
WE'LL ALL DIE OF THE PLAGUE!
BEWARE THE RED DEATH! KEEP TO YOUR HOMES!
THEY FALL IN THE STREETS...
GAAA-MY HEART BURSTS! I BLEED--THE CURSED RED DEATH HAS ME!
AND THE DEATH CARTS ROLL...
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER HEAVY DAY, HENRI! THEY DIE LIKE FLIES! HO-BRING OUT YOUR DEAD!
AHEAD THERE, A HOUSE WITH A CROSS!
PLAGUE HERE, SURE ENOUGH! BUT THEY BRING OUT NO DEAD!
HA-HA! CAN THE DEAD CARRY THE DEAD! COME, FOOL!
A LOVELY LASS, OR WAS BEFORE THE RED DEATH TOOK HER! WELL--ON TO THE NEXT HOUSE!
AND THE NEXT--AND THE NEXT! THERE IS NO END!
ANOTHER LOAD IN THE PITS! AND WE START AGAIN!
SOON IT WILL BE US! BRRR!


BUT THERE WAS ONE PLACE WHERE THE PLAGUE HAD NOT STRUCK! THE CHATEAU OF THE COUNT OF MALATROIT! IT STOOD COOL AND ALOOF, UNTOUCHED...

SHE IS SO INNOCENT, SO BEAUTIFUL! I'D DEFY DEMONS TO PROTECT HER!
MY HUSBAND! WHAT NEWS OF THE PLAGUE TODAY? I WORRY FOR OUR POOR PEOPLE!

YOU MUST NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THE RABBLE, MY DEAR! I THINK ONLY OF YOU, AND OF YOUR SAFETY! HERE, WITHIN THE WALLS YOU CAN FORGET THE PLAGUE!

BUT OUTSIDE THE GATES...
PLEASE! YOU HAVE MEDICINES!
STAND BACK, YOU RIFF-RAFF! NONE ENTERS THE CHATEAU GROUNDS!

THERE IS THE COUNT NOW! HELP US, SIRE!
YOU DENY YOUR PEOPLE AID! CURSE YOU!
I CAN DO NOTHING! BE GONE!

WHY DO OUR PEOPLE WAIT, HUSBAND? CAN WE NOT DO SOMETHING FOR THEM?
NO, MY DEAR! THE POOR FOOLS ARE DOOMED! THEY WOULD ONLY INFECT US IF WE HELPED!

TIME PASSES AND THE RED DEATH STILL RUNS AMUCK! BUT INSIDE THE CHATEAU THERE IS HOPE AND JOY...
HERE IS YOUR NEW CHILD, SIRE! A LUSTY BOY!
AN HEIR! I HAVE WISHED FOR ONE SO LONG!

THERE, LITTLE ONE, DO NOT CRY! SOMETIME, WHEN ALL THIS TROUBLE HAS PASSED, YOU WILL BE THE COUNT OF MALA-TROIT!

BUT THAT NIGHT IN THE SHADOW CLOTTED BEDROOM...
HAH-HAH! AHH-HA-HA!
W-WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU STAND THERE AND LAUGH?

EEEE! YOU! YOU ARE-THE RED DEATH!
HEH-HEH! DID YOU THINK YOUR WALLS COULD KEEP ME OUT?

Y-YOU! HAVE YOU COME FOR MY CHILD?
NOT THE CHILD! FOR YOU, MY PRETTY ONE! YOU ARE TO BE TAKEN!

SUDDENLY...
THE RED DEATH! YOU SHALL NOT TAKE HER! I WILL KILL YOU!
YOU ARE A FOOL, COUNT! NONE CAN SLAY ME! I AM THE RED DEATH!

YOU SHALL NOT TAKE HER! ASK ANYTHING BUT THAT!
DO NOT BARGAIN WITH ME! I MUST HAVE A LIFE!

I KNOW--TAKE THE CHILD! SPARE MY WIFE!

I'LL DO IT! GIVE ME THE CHILD NOW!
YES, OF COURSE! YOU CAN HAVE IT!
NO! NOT MY BABY!

NO, MY HUSBAND! PLEASE! I WILL GO-ONLY SPARE...
I COMMAND IT! GIVE ME THE CHILD!

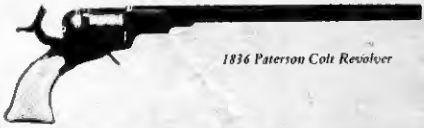
THANK YOU, SIRE! FOR THE MOMENT I AM SATISFIED! BUT A DEBT IS STILL OWED ME!
HERE-TAKE THE CHILD! NOW GO! GO!

I GO! BUT THIS IS NOT FULL PAYMENT! I WILL RETURN FOR THE BALANCE SOMEDAY! HA-HA-HA!

(to be continued on page 52)

BRINGS THE LUSTY FRONTIER TO LIFE!

Follow the gunslingers, law and order men, Indians, trappers, con men, and the women, across the windswept plains in a tornado of all true action.



1836 Paterson Colt Revolver

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FORGIVE ME, OH LORD, FOR MY SINS! DO NOT LET THIS THING VISIT THEM ON MY FAMILY!

YEARS PASS UNTIL AT LAST THE COUNT IS NEAR DEATH IN A MONASTERY...
THE RED DEATH-- IT WILL COME BACK! I OWE A DEBT!
POOR MAN! AGAIN HE SPEAKS OF THE RED DEATH! BUT THAT VANISHED LONG AGO!

THE LAWYER FINISHES HIS STUDY OF THE OLD PAPERS...
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! DID THE RED DEATH COME BACK AFTER ALL THE CENTURIES?

SOMETHING STIRS IN THE SHADOWS...
WHO'S THERE?
ONLY ME! HA-HA! DO NOT BE AFRAID!

YOU! THE RED DEATH COME BACK! BUT...
I GO NOW, FOR-EVER! I'VE BEEN PAID-BY THE LAST OF THE MALATROITS!

THE SUN COMES UP...
THAT'S THE END OF IT, THEN! THE END OF THE MALATROITS-- AND-THE RED DEATH!
The End